

UNCLASSIFIED

10/18/76

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FBIE-00
USSS-00 MCT-01 AID-05 /058 W

O 181902Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7581

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6841

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AR, ARA, SHUM
SUBJECT: MONTONERO BOMBING CIRCULO MILITAR, OCTOBER 17, 1976

113922 ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part () In Full DECOA
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason

DECONTROL

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE RSO AND THE LEGATT. AT APPROXIMATELY 0005 HOURS, OCTOBER 17, 1976, A BOMB CONSISTING OF ABOUT FOUR KILOGRAMS (8.8 POUNDS) OF AN EXPLOSIVE SIMILAR TO TNT WAS DETONATED IN THE CIRCULO MILITAR, MAIPU AND CHARCAS STREETS, FEDERAL CAPITAL, BUENOS AIRES. THE BOMB WAS PLANTED IN A MULTIPURPOSE ROOM. THIS ROOM OF THE OFFICERS' CLUB IS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR IMMEDIATELY ABOVE AN INDOOR SWIMMING POOL/PISTOL RANGE. THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 96 INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING MILITARY PERSONNEL, DEPENDENTS AND GUESTS, IN THE ROOM. THE GROUP, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WERE VIEWING A MOTION PICTURE.

2. THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED YESTERDAY (OCT. 17) INDICATED 50 PERSONS HAD BEEN INJURED, SEVERAL OF WHOM ARE HOSPITALIZED. NO DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

3. AN INDIVIDUAL TELEPHONED THE CIRCULO MILITAR AFTER THE BOMBING, CLAIMING CREDIT IN THE NAME OF THE MONTONEROS.

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4. RSO COMMENT: THE OCCASION OF THE GATHERING WAS THE SHOWING OF A MOTION PICTURE. THIS ACTIVITY, WHICH IS ATTENDED BY MILITARY MEMBERS, THEIR DEPENDENTS AND GUESTS, IS ROUTINE IN THIS FACILITY. THIS ATTACK DIFFERS SOMEWHAT FROM THOSE OF THE PAST IN THAT IT WAS DIRECTED MORE AT DEPENDENTS THAN MILITARY PERSONNEL THEMSELVES. THIS IS THE SECOND SUCH ATTACK IN RECENT DAYS, THE FIRST BEING AN ATTEMPT ON VIDELA'S LIFE AS REPORTED IN BUENOS AIRES 6618. CLEARLY, THE BOMB AT THE CIRCULO MILITAR WAS INTENDED TO MARK OCTOBER 17, PERONIST LOYALTY DAY.
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